

**TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 1997**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Santini, Councilmembers Bush, Cox and Kiar. Also present were Town Administrator Flatley and Town Attorney Webber, and Town Clerk Reinfeld recording the meeting.

Public Hearing

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE R-97-303 PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA; REIMPOSING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF DAVIE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1997; APPROVING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Wallace provided a brief history of the EMS assessment. He explained that the assessment method, rather than the property tax method, had been selected for financing the annual cost of providing EMS and described the advantages of the assessment method.

Mr. Wallace stated that multiple buildings located on the same parcel ID number would be the only properties adversely effected as each building would be considered separately. He remarked that residential properties would remain constant and non-residential properties would realize a reduced amount.

Mr. Wallace introduced Sarah Bleakly representing Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson and Calvin Knowles representing Government Services Group. Ms. Bleakly described the Table of Rates provided in the materials that had been distributed. She related that a notice of the public hearing had been mailed to those paying an assessment and added that a notice had also been published in the newspaper.

Vice-Mayor Santini inquired if changes had been made in allocations to educational and residential areas. Ms. Bleakly responded negatively and recommended that this matter be reviewed in a few years. Vice-Mayor Santini inquired about educational designations. Ms. Bleakly related that individual buildings were subject to square footage ranges with each building categorized separately. Discussion followed.

Mayor Venis asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the resolution.

Scott McCluskey, 2102 Nova Village Drive, spoke in favor of the assessment. He expressed concerns about the management of the funds and said that money had been wasted on the LifeFleet management. He suggested the possibility of the Town providing the EMS services. Mr. McCluskey mentioned a letter he had written to the mayor and indicated that he had not received a response. Mayor Venis requested another copy of the letter.

Nina Jacobs, 2912 Oak Park Circle, stated she was against the assessment. She said residents with fixed, or limited, incomes could not afford additional payments.

Mayor Venis closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Kiar inquired if EMS costs had previously been included in taxes. Mr. Wallace responded affirmatively and indicated that the previous year was the first time EMS costs had been levied.

Mr. Wallace related that property assessed above \$129,000 had saved money and property assessed below had paid more. He stated that the maximum amount paid was \$37.94 with a discount offered on payments received by December 4, 1997. Mr. Wallace explained that the fee was generally incorporated within mortgage payments.

Councilmember Kiar asked if the breakdown of slightly more than \$3 per month was correct. Mr. Wallace responded affirmatively for residential property.

Vice-Mayor Santini stressed the importance of relating the facts to the residents and inquired about the EMS assessment on a \$50,000 to \$75,000 home. Mr. Wallace said that a \$50,000 taxable value residence had paid \$15 to Broward County. He said that the \$22 annual increase for a \$50,000 home included an increase in EMS services and response time.

Town Clerk Reinfeld read the resolution by title.

Councilmember Bush made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Kiar, to approve. In a roll call, the vote was as follows: Mayor Venis - yes; Vice-Mayor Cox - yes; Councilmember Bush - yes; Councilmember Kiar - yes; and Councilmember Santini - yes. (Motion carried 5-0)

There being no objections or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.